

I think free speech is becoming more important every day.

Thank goodness that we were able to read about women and men and their biological views, as viewed by the Speaker, but it does scare me to death.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-2) on the resolution (H. Res. 38) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments, to ensure that the Federal Government pays the costs incurred by those governments in complying with certain requirements under Federal statutes and regulations, and to provide information on the cost of Federal mandates on the private sector, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HAITI: BELOW THE SURFACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today is day 122 of the American occupation of Haiti, a friendly country just south of our borders. The United States command in Haiti has determined that a secure environment has been established. The United Nations is expected to rule on this question in the coming weeks and the process of transition to a United Nations mission will be on-line, hopefully for an end of March completion. What will this transition mean? Today, our forces in Haiti have the authority to arrest and detain troublemakers and to respond with force. And in fact they have been doing that.

The U.N. mission in Haiti, which will include approximately 2,500 United States troops, will be a chapter 6 mission—strictly one of providing presence and monitoring. Under current mission parameters, American soldiers provide the security in Haiti, to the degree that that security is real. They are the folks who are enforcing the security there, to the degree that there is any real security.

Today, our soldiers are involved at the local level in the day-to-day running of villages throughout the Haitian countryside. Our soldiers are serving as mayors and judges; they are serving as the electric company and waste disposal management company. In any given day, they might be called upon to deal with a charge that perhaps the local magistrate is engaged in extortion; they will probably buy the food for the prisoners in the local jail and make certain it is delivered; they will probably give out a few speeding tickets and might even confiscate a few

guns. As we always expect of them, our troops are doing an outstanding job. Whether or not it is an appropriate or safe job for them to be doing and what sort of track record they are building in the eyes of the Haitian people are questions still open for debate. We have lost one soldier tragically in action in Haiti—he was trying to force someone to pay a toll to an individual who apparently had no official authority to collect it. We are deeply troubled by this death and renew our call for a thorough review of United States policy in Haiti.

Knowing the degree of American financial and personnel involvement in Haiti, Americans were no doubt surprised to read in the national press yesterday that their men and women in uniform are not accepted with open arms by all Haitians. Despite the fact all we are doing for Haitians, apparently there are some problems. This is in sharp contrast to the pictures they remember of jubilant Haitians in Port-Au-Prince welcoming Americans to their shores. But there is more to Haiti than Port-Au-Prince.

It is true that in many Haitian villages, American soldiers are cheered as they drive through the streets, and that gladdens the heart of all Americans. But the feeling that American troops do not belong in Haiti also is real in many areas of the country.

It is a little bit of going back to the old days of the occupation that some remember, the gringoism that we have suffered for so many years in our hemisphere and tried to get away from through the good works we have done in so many countries in our hemisphere.

Haitians from the provinces will tell us that the soldiers have made little difference in their lives. They are disappointed. The farmers will tell us that they still have no one to go to when someone steals their crops or their livestock, or that if they do complain, nothing happens. People will tell us that the American soldiers have let themselves be used in some instances by thugs and vagabonds. Some will also tell us that they would prefer that no foreign soldiers be in their country. I guess we can understand that.

In other places, like Jeremie, they are crying foul because they believe the U.S. troops are too close to the military leaders who once terrorized that population. It is a very thin, delicate line our troops have to walk.

As we make the transition to a U.N. mission, any feelings of insecurity and resentment will continue to grow. We know that. That is not uncommon in a transition. But we have to add into the equation the fact that the Haitian Government is not up to the administrative and financial challenge of providing for its own security right now or for getting government up and running, even with the present monitoring of our United Nations mission. They are not going to be able to do that.

Haitian police forces do not have the respect of the public, and they do not

have the weapons or the vehicles to provide for law and order.

The conclusion I reach is that below the surface of the so-called secure environment there remain very serious problems that could become deadly in an instant once the transition is made.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N. mission in Haiti is not the end of the risk for our troops. In fact, it may even up the stakes. I hope the Clinton White House is looking below the surface to ensure the safety of our men and women in uniform.

And while they are thinking about Haiti, the Clinton administration might start thinking about the American taxpayers who are footing the bill for the hundreds of millions committed to bail out the Aristide ship of state, which many observers feel is a boat that will not float no matter how hard you bail.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DELAY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLECZKA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KLECZKA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, kind of a disturbing thing happened this week in so many ways that makes me wonder if the folks at the White House get it yet.

The President appointed a very liberal member of the Washington political establishment to run the National Democrat Party, and in his first press conference he personally told the Washington press corps elitists that he was against the balanced-budget amendment because he did not want to wait 7 years to balance the budget.

Well, neither does the American middle-class public. They are tired of it. The middle class in America are in a situation where they may need a new carpet, they may need a new washing